

THE OCCURRENCE OF *TYRRELLIA CIRCULARIS* KOENIKE IN TEXAS (HYDRACARINA: TYRRELLIIDAE)^{1,2}

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Marshall (1940), in her study of the mite genus *Tyrrellia* Koenike, recorded the distribution of *T. circularis* Koenike from Michigan and California. Koenike (1895) based his description of *T. circularis* on specimens collected near Ottawa, Ontario Canada.

During an ecological study of the mite fauna of the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation near Sinton, San Patricio County, Texas, a single specimen of *T. circularis* (tenoral female), was found from a soil sample taken in a drying mud flat on March 5, 1978.

Material of *T. circularis* has been collected in debris at the margin of Reed's Lane near Grand Rapids, Michigan, in close proximity to water, and from a thermal spring in California and a mineral Hot Springs, Saquache Co., Colorado (Young 1969). The habitat of the single Texas specimen of *T. circularis* was a previously inundated area peripheral to a 75-acre lake on the Welder Foundation. The lake, a shallow basin with only sparse emergent vegetation, is of the "ox-bow" type and is subject to rapid water loss from evaporation in periods of low rainfall. The soil sample containing *T. circularis* was collected 2 meters from the shoreline on a flat, carpeted with decadent culms of clubhead cutgrass (*Leersia hexandra*). Soils at the site are heavy clays that quickly harden upon drying.

We are indebted to Dr. Rober Mitchell, Department of Zoology, The Ohio State University, for the loan of specimens of *T. circularis*. The slide of *T. circularis* collected from Texas is deposited with Dr. Mitchell at Ohio State University.

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